



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Twin Cities

Catholic Charities at Elliot Park
1007 East 14th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404
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May 16, 2025

Re: SF2298 - (Igo) Housing Omnibus Bill

Chairs Port, Igo, Howard and Members of the Conference Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Catholic Charities to thank you for the investments in the affordable housing and homelessness infrastructure in the House and Senate Omnibus bills; and to urge this committee to pass policies and funding measures that best serve those who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

As one of Minnesota's major providers of Permanent Supportive Housing, Catholic Charities houses and supports nearly 1,000 of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Preserving existing affordable and supportive housing is critical for our most vulnerable community members — our residents are frequently struggling with complex medical conditions, disabilities, substance use disorder, and other challenges — and the supportive services we provide are often the difference between maintaining housing and falling into homelessness. Yet, keeping up with costs such as insurance, security and maintenance is threatening the health of affordable and supportive housing providers.

Catholic Charities urges this committee to pass a strong preservation plan to help affordable housing providers adapt to the challenging financial landscape that has emerged in recent years.

We also appreciate the focus on prevention with the investment in the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP). The assistance and services available through this important program help countless families remain housed.

As you negotiate provisions for inclusion in the final budget bill, we urge this committee to adopt the House position of \$30.6m investment in FHPAP.

Thank you for considering investments and policies that shore up the housing and homelessness continuum; this work is critical to helping our unhoused community members find a place to call home.

Sincerely,

Jamie Verbrugge
President and CEO